

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 ACDA-12 IO-14 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 OES-07 DLOS-09 TRSE-00 EB-08
DOE-15 SOE-02 DOEE-00 MCE-00 COME-00 /124 W
-----031264 061323Z /46

O 061230Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2514
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI
USMISSION USUN
USDOCOSOUTH
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
DIA WASHDC
USICA WASHDC

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USICA FOR VOA/PN, PGM/RC, PGM/PPE, EU.

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, TU, GR
SUBJECT: TURKISH-GREEK MFA SECGENS MEETING -- PRESS REACTION.

REF: ANKARA 4920 (DTG 051130Z JUL 78)

1. JULY 4-5 MEETING IN ANKARA OF TURKISH AND GREEK MFA
SECGENS ENDED WITH MORNING AND AFTERNOON SESSIONS JULY 5
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FOLLOWED BY DINNER FOR BOTH DELEGATIONS AT THE GREEK EMBASSY;
GREEK DELEGATION WAS TO RETURN TO ATHENS MORNING OF JULY 6.
UNSPECTACULAR NATURE OF MFA ANNOUNCEMENT ON END OF MEETING
(SENT SEPTEL) AND LACK OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE RESULTED IN ONLY
MODERATE COVERAGE IN JULY 6 PRESS. MOST HEADLINES MERELY
SAID THAT TALKS ENDED, ALTHOUGH SOME POINTED UP DECISION FOR
ATHENS MEETING OF SECGENS IN SEPTEMBER; SOLE EXCEPTION TO

THIS PATTERN WAS MODERATE, PRO-GOVERNMENT MILLIYET WHOSE HEADLINE READ "DURING THE TURKISH/GREEK TALKS WHICH ENDED AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON SOME TOPICS".

2. THE ONLY PRESS ACCOUNTS GOING BEYOND MFA ANNOUNCEMENT WERE IN MILLIYET AND LEFTIST CUMHURIYET AND BARIS. MILLIYET SAID THAT THE TWO SIDES HAD AGREED THAT THE DIALOGUE SHOULD BE CONTINUED WITH THE OBJECT OF BRIDGING DIFFERENCES ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES AT THE SECGEN LEVEL SO THAT THEY COULD BE TAKEN UP BY THE TWO PRIMINS. THEY ALSO AGREED TO MAKE EFFORTS TO RECONVENE THE COMMITTEES DEALING WITH THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF AND AIRSPACE ISSUES BEFORE THE NEXT SECGENS MEETING. ACCORDING TO MILLIYET, THE SIDES AGREED THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD PREPARE "A DOCUMENT TO REGULATE AND IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES"; SUCH A DOCUMENT IS TO INCLUDE NOT ONLY THE GREEK PROPOSAL FOR A NON-AGGRESSION AGREEMENT, BUT AT TURKISH INSISTENCE "ALL ASPECTS OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES." MILLIYET QUOTED "ANKARA DIPLOMATIC QUARTERS" AS SAYING THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE GREEK/TURKISH DIALOGUE WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER OR NOT THE US ARMS EMBARGO IS LIFTED.

3. CUMHURIYET QUOTED "A HIGH OFFICIAL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY" AS SAYING, "WHAT WAS EXPECTED OF THE MEETING WAS THE CLARIFICATION TO EACH OTHER OF THE SIDES' VIEWS ABOUT THE METHODS TO BE FOLLOWED IN REACHING SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS, AND UNCLASSIFIED

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THE SHOWING OF THEIR GOOD INTENTIONS. IN THIS SENSE IT CAN BE SAID THAT WHAT WAS OBJECTIVELY EXPECTED HAS BEEN ACHIEVED. THE TWO SIDES...HAVE ESTABLISHED AS A BASIC PRINCIPLE THAT THEY WANT THE DIALOGUE TO CONTINUE." ACCORDING TO BARIS, GREEK SECGEN THEODOROPOULOS WAS "NEITHER WARM NOR COLD" BUT CONTROLLED IN HIS BEHAVIOR. THIS, SAID BARIS, WAS EXPLAINED BY "AN OFFICIAL" AS BEING DUE TO A GREEK FEAR THAT A BREAKING OF THE GREEK/TURKISH DIALOGUE WOULD DAMAGE GREECE'S CHANCES FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMON MARKET. ALL THREE MAJOR PRESS REPORTS SAID THAT CYPRUS WAS NOT OFFICIALLY DISCUSSED BUT THAT, IN ADDITION TO THE GREEK NON-AGGRESSION PACT PROPOSAL AND AEGEAN ISSUES, THE QUESTIONS OF THE TURKISH MINORITY IN GREECE AND GREECE'S ARMAMENT OF THE DODECANESE WERE BROUGHT UP.

4. EDITORIAL COMMENT WAS SPARSE AND RESTRAINED. EDITORIAL IN CONSERVATIVE, PRO-OPPOSITION TERCUMAN CALLED TALKS "NEITHER TOO WARM NOR TOO COOL" AND SAID THEY NEITHER BROUGHT UNEXPECTED RESULTS NOR JUSTIFIED ADVANCE PESSIMISM. EDITORIAL SAID THAT GREEKS APPARENTLY CAME THIS TIME WITH GENUINE INTENTION OF DISCUSSING MATTERS RATHER THAN MERELY IN PRO FORMA GESTURE; IT WAS IMPLIED THAT GREECE/EEC RELATIONS WERE INSTRUMENTAL

IN THIS. "THIS TIME GREECE, TOO, HAS ACCEPTED THAT TALKS WILL BE USEFUL; TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE WAS DECIDED ON. NEVERTHELESS...IT WILL BE THE FUTURE ACTIONS OF GREECE WHICH WILL SHOW ITS REAL INTENTIONS", THE TERCUMAN EDITORIAL CONCLUDES. FRONT-PAGE COMMENTARY IN CUMHURIYET, APPARENTLY WRITTEN BEFORE THE END OF THE TALKS, SHOWED GREAT SUSPICION OF GREEK MOTIVES, POINTING TO GREECE'S UNNEIGHBORLY DEMAND FOR A NON-AGGRESSION PACT AND ITS UNFRIENDLY STAND ON THE VARIOUS AEGEAN ISSUES. CUMHURIYET EDITORIAL THEORIZES THAT GREEKS ARE ONLY GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS OF TALKS SO THEY CAN CLAIM TO THEIR SUPPORTERS IN CONGRESS THAT "WE HAVE GONE TO THEM, BUT...THERE IS NO WAY OF COMING TO TERMS WITH THEM."

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5. AMBASSADOR HAS AN APPOINTMENT WITH ELEKDAG LATER TODAY (JULY 6) AT WHICH WE EXPECT TO GAIN SOME INSIGHT INTO THE TALKS. SPIERS

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